



Alcohol and Tobacco Control State of Louisiana

ATC Press Release

ATC Appreciates Auditor's Positive Recommendations

March 18, 2014

Baton Rouge, LA: The Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control (ATC) appreciates and agrees with the positive recommendations issued by the Legislative Auditor for the continued improvement of the Agency's operations. The performance audit highlights how far ATC has come in a short period of time and identifies areas where additional improvements are needed. ATC has embraced the Auditor's recommendations and immediately began implementing the necessary changes.

"Three years ago, when I took over this troubled agency, we asked the Auditor to come in and make recommendations to improve ATC's operations. Where the audit does not focus is the fact that today ATC is run like a business and is one of the most efficiently run agencies in the state. Red tape is down and enforcement is up.

Audits can be a lot like bathing suits, they are very revealing, but they hide some very important details. Such as the following:

- The number of days it takes to receive a permit has dropped from over 35 days to less than 10.
- Enforcement fines have increased from less than \$10,000 per month to over \$70,000 per month.
- ATC went from a \$500,000 deficit to giving the state back \$1.2 million a year.
- Reduced the total number of ATC employees by over 25%.
- Reduced the wait time at the customer service window from over 2 hours to less than 30 minutes.
- Removed 20 ATC vehicles off the roads and gave them to the state surplus.
- Installed GPS tracking devices on all agents' units.

Can we still improve? We sure can and we will. Putting our customers, Louisiana's taxpayers, first has been and always will be our first priority at ATC," said Commissioner Troy Hebert.

For more information, please contact:

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